

claiming; (iv) to revise original non-U.S. claim terminology into more appropriate English claim terms having a scope of meaning consistent with the original intended language in preparation for U.S. examination; (iv) to remove limitations having an effect in a foreign country which is different and unintended under U.S. practice (i.e., changing “consisting of” to “comprising”); (v) to remove or amend original claim language that could be regarded as alternative expressions that are acceptable under foreign patent practice but possibly subject to objection under U.S. practice, typically having a broadening or neutral effect in the amended claim; and/or (vi) to improve the clarity or meaning of the original language.

In the case of amendments effectively changing an original claim element expressed as a “means plus function” that could raise a presumption of claim expression under 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph to a structural expression or to an expression removing the presumption of a “means-plus-function” statement, it is not intended to narrow the claim so amended for purposes of patentability, but rather to place the claim in a form considered to be intended by the applicant from a foreign country where claim limitations described in terms of means-plus-function do not have the same effect as under U.S. practice. Thus, such amendments are intended to establish a full range of equivalents to the claim elements so amended under the U.S. doctrine of equivalents and beyond the range associated with “means-plus-function” expressions according to 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph, just as if the claim so amended was presented originally in its amended form.

All rights are reserved to the original disclosed and claimed subject matter and any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for processing deposits of value units (BN), ~~characterized by comprising:~~

[[~~-~~]] a first bank note processing machine (8) with at least one input pocket (9), at least one checking device and at least one output pocket (10) for subjecting the bank notes (BN) of a deposit to a first checking operation[[.]];

[[~~-~~]] a second bank note processing machine (12) with at least one input pocket (14), at least one checking device and at least one output pocket (13) for subjecting bank notes (BN) of the deposit that were previously checked by the first bank note processing machine (8) to a second checking operation[[.]]; and

[[~~-~~]] an evaluation device (4) to which data of both the first and second checking operations are supplied for performing an evaluation of the deposit on the basis of both the first and second checking operations.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the second bank note processing machine (12) differs with regard to functionality and/or efficiency in comparison with the first bank note processing machine (8), ~~in particular performing different checking operations and/or having a higher maximum hourly throughput.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ both the first and second bank note processing machines (8, 12) are connected to the evaluation device (4) via signal lines to enable ~~permit~~ data on the checking operations to be transferred automatically to the evaluation device.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ different types of deposits, such as deposits of different size or different customers, are checked automatically by

different bank note processing machines (8, 12) and/or with different processing sequences.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ when checking the same deposit the second bank note processing machine (12) performs different checking operations or the same checking operations, optionally with different accuracy and/or different acceptance criteria, from the first bank note processing machine (8).

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ in the second checking operation in the second bank note processing machine (12) only certain bank notes (BN) of the deposit are checked for certain check criteria, in dependence on the check result of the first checking operation in the first bank note processing machine (8).

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ for carrying out the second checking operation of the second bank note processing machine (12), data on the result of the first checking operation of the first bank note processing machine (8) are supplied by the first bank note processing machine (8) and/or by the evaluation device (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the first bank note processing machine (8) performs an authenticity check without a fitness check, and the second bank note processing machine (12) performs a fitness check optionally without an authenticity check.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the first bank note processing machine (8) performs an authenticity check, determination of denomination and orientation sorting of the bank notes (BN) of the deposit, and the second bank note processing

machine (12) performs a fitness check of the authentic bank notes (BN) of the same deposit sorted according to orientation.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, including at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that a reader unit for reading a unique bank note feature, such as unique measuring features of the bank notes (BN), and/or a reader for the serial number of the bank notes (BN) is integrated in the first bank note processing machine (8).

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein, at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that for inserting cassettes (3) of different constructions, the first and/or the second bank note processing machine (8, 12) has a plurality of different, firmly mounted adapters or at least one replaceable adapter.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that data on deposits to be processed in the future are transmitted from an external device to the evaluation device (4), together with or independently of the transport of the deposits to the assigned bank note processing machines (8, 12).

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, including at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that a surveillance camera (18) is installed in a room where the bank notes of the deposit are processed, and data on a deposit instantaneously processed within the range of the surveillance camera (18) are linked with image data, in particular by being displayed in the image.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that a data output of the first and/or second bank note processing machine (8, 12) is coupled with the surveillance camera (18) and/or an associated supervising unit in such a way as to transfer data

that relate to the instantaneously processed deposit and that are delivered by the bank note processing machine or machines (8, 12).

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the first checking operation in the first bank note processing machine (8) comprises a fitness check of the bank notes (BN), and bank notes (BN) with different fitness are processed further in different second bank note processing machines (12a, 12b).

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that upon a successive check of the bank notes (BN) of a deposit in two bank note processing machines (8, 12), the accounting of the deposit is already effected after the first checking operation in the first bank note processing machine (8).

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that at least one output pocket (10) of the first bank note processing machine (8) is connected to at least one input pocket (14) of the second bank note processing machine (12) via a dispatch tube connection.

18. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the bank notes (BN) are stacked in the first bank note processing machine (8) in a dispatch tube container, and are singled out of the dispatch tube container in the second bank note processing machine (12) connected to the first bank note processing machine (8) via a dispatch tube connection.

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that at least the first and/or second bank note processing machines (8, 12) are connected via signal lines to a computer (4)

which has access to the data on deposits incoming and to be processed, and the computer transmits (4) ~~can transmit~~ deposit-related data to all or at least some of the bank note processing machines (8, 12) connected by data line to said computer (4), so that said machines are preconfigured for deposits to be subsequently processed thereon.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for processing deposits of value units (BN), ~~characterized in that bank~~ comprising:

processing notes (BN) of the a deposit ~~are checked~~ successively in two bank note processing machines (8, 12), and

supplying the data of both the first and second checking operations ~~are supplied~~ to an evaluation device (4) in order to perform an evaluation of the deposit on the basis of both the first and second checking operations.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ different types of deposits, such as deposits of different size or different customers, are checked automatically by different bank note processing machines (8, 12) and/or with different processing sequences, specifically e.g. alternatively a one-stage or a two-stage processing operation with one or two bank note processing machines (8, 12) is selected.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~at least one of claims 20 to 21, characterized in that~~ the evaluation device (4) ~~is transmitted~~ receives data from an external device on deposits to be processed in the future, together with or independently of the transport of the deposits to the assigned bank note processing machines (8, 12).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~at least one of claims 20 to 22, characterized in that~~ only the bank notes (BN) of a single deposit are processed in a processing operation in the first bank note processing machine (8), and optionally the bank notes (BN) of a plurality of deposits are

processed in a processing operation in the second bank note processing machine (12).

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~at least one of claims 20 to 23, characterized in that~~ the first checking operation in the first bank note processing machine (8) comprises a fitness check of the bank notes (BN), and bank notes (BN) with different fitness are processed further in other second bank note processing machines (12).

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein, ~~at least one of claims 20 to 24, characterized in that~~ upon a successive check of the bank notes (BN) of a deposit in two bank note processing machines (8, 12), the accounting of the deposit is already effected after the first checking operation in the first bank note processing machine (8).

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, including using ~~at least one of claims 20 to 25, characterized in that~~ transport containers (1) ~~are used~~ for the deposits, said containers including, and/or have added to them ~~and these~~ have a chip with a memory ~~and/or this is added to the transport container, and~~ wherein ~~in which~~ one part of the data to be passed on to the evaluation device (4) and relating to the particular deposit is already prestored in said chip, and for compiling deposits to be processed only a remaining part of the data to be passed on to the evaluation device (4) and relating to the particular deposit ~~is~~ must be stored in the chip.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~at least one of claims 20 to 26, characterized in that~~ a hand-held unit with a scanner is used, with which data for compiling a deposit to be processed are scanned e.g. from a screen or the like.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein, ~~at least~~

~~one of claims 20 to 27, characterized in that~~ upon delivery of a deposit in a plurality of, in particular also different kinds of, transport containers ~~(1, 2, 3)~~, the bank notes of the plurality of transport containers ~~(1, 2, 3)~~ are first brought together and then, as a common deposit, processed further and checked in the first and/or second bank note processing machine ~~(8, 12)~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein a check is made as to ~~at least one of claims 20 to 28, characterized in that it is automatically checked~~ whether there are deviations between the actual data of the deposit which were determined by the evaluation device (4) on the basis of the checking operations of the first and/or second bank note processing machines ~~(8, 12)~~, and the target data of the deposit which were already fixed before the carrying out of the checking operations.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of claims 20 to 29, characterized in that~~ a warning signal is emitted when the deviations satisfy a given criterion, ~~in particular exceed a certain measure.~~

31. (New) The system according to claim 2, wherein the functionality and/or efficiency of the second bank note processing machine differs from the first bank note processing machine by performing different checking operations and/or having a higher maximum hourly throughput.